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Teacher Overview: Enduring Issues List and How to Identify an Enduring Issue

Please note that these materials were created as open educational resources by New Visions for Public Schools, a New York City based nonprofit. All of our resources are intended to guide teacher decision making. Unit and course-level decisions should be made by individual teachers, administrators or districts. These are **suggested materials** to support individual teachers, administrators, or districts in preparing students for the new Global History and Geography Regents exam.

For more information about the new exam, [click here](#). For more Regents resources, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us: socialstudiescurriculum@newvisions.org

How to Use this Document: *This document is intended as a handout for students.* The enduring issues listed below identify nine issues that commonly come up in the New Visions Global History Curriculum. It is derived from a [list from the New York State Department of Education](#). This is not an exhaustive list of possible enduring issues for essays, but can act as a starting point. When faced with an enduring issues prompt, students need to choose issues based on the documents presented and should not limit themselves to the list below. We recommend that students follow the criteria for an enduring issue and the four tips for identifying an enduring issue *before* students consider the list.

Identifying an Enduring Issue

An **ENDURING ISSUE** is a *challenge* or *problem* that a society has faced and debated or discussed across time. An enduring issue is one that many societies have attempted to address with varying degrees of success.

Criteria for an Enduring Issues

- ✓ It is a challenge or a problem.
- ✓ It existed in the past and exists today.
- ✓ It has affected a lot of people.
- ✓ If you have been given five documents, there is evidence of the challenge or problem in at least **THREE** of the documents.

Four Tips for Identifying an Enduring Issue

1

Base your issue on evidence.

You will need to support your choice of enduring issue with evidence from documents or topics you have learned in class, so instead of choosing an issue that you like to write about and trying to find evidence for it, look for evidence of challenges or problems, then identify an issue based on what you find.

2

Do not stick to the list.

If you see evidence of an enduring issue in a set of documents or topics you have learned in class that is not on the list, then choose that one. Do not limit yourself to the list. For example, “hatred,” and “pollution” are not on the list, but are enduring issues.

3

Be as specific as possible.

Instead of choosing “conflict,” try identifying an enduring issue like “conflict between ethnic groups” or “civil wars.”

4

Identify causes and/or effects.

Instead of choosing an issue like “conflict,” identify what causes conflict like “conflict caused by competition over resources” or try identifying the effects of an enduring issue. For example, you could write, “conflict has led to human rights violations.”

Phrases to help identify an enduring issue

Phrase	<i>An enduring issue in history has been the...</i>	Phrase	<i>An enduring issue in history has been the...</i>
Need for/to	need for sources of freshwater	Effects of	effects of new technology
Competition over	competition over sources of freshwater	Impact of	impact of new technology
Lack of	lack of sources of freshwater	Change(s) in/to	changes in technology
Scarcity of	scarcity of freshwater	Conflict(s) over	conflicts over new technology
		Rejection/ acceptance of	rejection of new technology
		Threats of/to	threats of new technology to traditional ways of life

New Visions Enduring Issues

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Conflict

Conflict is a serious disagreement or argument. There can be conflict between individuals, groups of people, and even nations.



Desire for Power

Power is the influence or control over the behavior of people and it is a part of every human interaction. You can see the effects of power in your relationships with your family and friends, and in schools, sports, business, and government.



Inequity

Inequity is a lack of fairness or justice. When there is inequity, one person or group of people do not have as much power or opportunity as others.



Need for and Impact of Innovation

An **innovation** is a new method of addressing a problem. Innovations have positive and negative impacts.



Impact of Interconnectedness

Interconnectedness is the state of having connections or relationships with other people. For example, the more people you know from a neighborhood, the more interconnected you are with it.



Impact of Ideas and Beliefs

Our **ideas and beliefs** shape the way we look at the world. Ideas and beliefs can come from one's conclusions from observation, religion, parents, books, or friends.



Environmental Impact

Our **environment** is the area around us in which we live. We are affected by our environment and we have an effect on it. This is true of your local environment (your home, your classroom, and your neighborhood) and the larger environment (your state, your country, and the world).



Scarcity

Scarcity is the state of not having enough of something. Everything we use in our daily life comes from the Earth and there is a limited supply of resources on this planet. Some places have access to more water than others, some have access to oil. Since resources are scarce, we trade for them.